

Claims

1. Apparatus for creating a local reduction in wave height comprising:
an upper surface portion operatively disposed at or near the water surface, and
5 a plurality of drag inducing elements disposed below the upper surface portion,
which elements are collapsible or compressible when the apparatus is not in use.
2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper surface portion comprises a
plurality of flexibly linked buoyant or semi-buoyant sections.
- 10 3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper surface portion comprises a
single sheet of flexible buoyant or semi-buoyant material.
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 further comprising a plurality of flexible
15 fluid retaining structures disposed thereon.
5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said flexible fluid retaining structures
comprise a network or grid of pipes or tubes.
- 20 6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or 5 wherein fluid is maintained in said flexible
structures under pressure.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6 further comprising at least one pump for
supplying fluid to said flexible fluid retaining structures.
- 25 8. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7 wherein said fluid is water.
9. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein at least some of said drag
inducing elements comprise shaped elements formed from a compressible
30 material.

10. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein at least some of said drag inducing elements comprise collapsible drogue anchors.
11. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein at least some of said drag inducing elements are inflatable with an inflating fluid.
12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said fluid is water.
13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 10 or 11 when dependent on claim 4 or any claim dependent on claim 4 wherein the inflating fluid for said inflatable drag inducing elements is supplied from said flexible fluid retaining structures.
14. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the leading end of the apparatus is inclined downwardly with respect to incident waves.
15. System for deploying and recovering an apparatus for creating a local reduction in wave height comprising:
 - an apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim
 - a deployment vessel
 - a storage device on said vessel for said apparatus, and
 - means for paying out and recovering said apparatus.
16. System as claimed in claim 15 wherein said storage device is a storage reel about which the apparatus is wound when not in use.